

OWNERS, &c. OF SPANISH BRIG LEON.

- [To accompany bill H. R. No. 79.]

DECEMBER 22, 1831.

Mr. CAMBRELENG, from the Committee on Commerce, made the following

REPORT:

*The Committee on Commerce, to whom was referred a message from the President of the United States, recommending that compensation be made to the owners of the Spanish brig Leon, for rescuing the crew of the American ship Minerva, report:*

That the ship *Minerva*, on her voyage from New York to New Orleans, was wrecked on Bahama bank, where she took fire. In this perilous condition, the officers, crew, and passengers, sixty-seven in number, were saved from the wreck, by the prompt and humane exertions of Captain Bornardo de Soto, of the Spanish brig *Leon*. Besides the detention of the vessel, and the expense of accommodating and transporting the crew and passengers of the *Minerva*, considerable damage was sustained by the owners of the brig. The committee are deeply sensible of the generous service rendered our distressed countrymen by a foreign flag, and take pleasure in expressing their grateful acknowledgments to Capt. Bernardo de Soto and his crew, for rescuing them from a terrible fate. While they consider that no pecuniary consideration can discharge the obligation for a service of this character, they are not willing that the citizens or subjects of any foreign power should sustain any loss in discharging the offices of humanity towards the distressed mariners of the United States. They, therefore, report a bill appropriating three thousand dollars to the fund for the relief of distressed American seamen, to be distributed among the owners, officers, and crew, of the Spanish brig *Leon*, under the direction of the President of the United States.

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